

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. The following people were present:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive	Council Member James Williams.
Council Member Linwood Mann	Council Member Walter H. McNeil, Jr.
Council Member L. I. "Poly" Cohen	Council Member Sam Gaskins
City Manager Hal Hegwer	Council Member Charles Taylor
City Attorney Susan Patterson	Deputy City Clerk Janice Cox

Absent:

Council Member Bob Brown
City Clerk Bonnie D. White

Mayor Olive called the meeting to order. Council Member Poly Cohen delivered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to make a public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that the agenda needed to be amended by adding on Regular Agenda, Item 9C—Consideration of a Local Agreement with Lee County for Disaster Relief with Lee County and 9D—Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget and the State of the City would become 9E. Mayor Olive stated that the "State of the City" report would be amended to be "State of the City after the Tornado."

Council Member Linwood Mann made the motion to approve the amended agenda; seconded by Council Member Poly Cohen, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Law and Finance Meeting Minutes Dated March 30, 2011- (Filed in Vault)

Approval of City Council Minutes Dated April 5, 2011- (Filed in Minute Book 75 in Vault)

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of a Portion of Watson Avenue for the Purpose of a Block Party - (Exhibit A)

The resolution was approval in Support of the temporary closure of Watson Avenue between East Trade Street and East Raleigh Street for the purpose of a neighborhood block party and non-exclusive use of the City of Sanford Parking Lot located at 2520 Watson Avenue for Monday, April 25, 2011 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Approval of Ordinance Prohibiting Thru Truck Traffic on Frazier Drive in the City of Sanford – (Exhibit B)

Approval was granted for this ordinance which makes through truck traffic unlawful in both directions on Frazier Drive beginning at the intersection of Industrial Drive and proceeding westerly to the intersection of Lemon Springs Road and authorizes the Public Works Director to erect “No Thru Truck” signs at the appropriate places on said street.

Approval of Mowing Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation – (Exhibit C)

Council approved a mowing contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation whereby the DOT would mow a maximum of five cycles during the 2011 mowing season. The City of Sanford would be eligible for reimbursement of a maximum of five cycles. Per the agreement, two of these cycles will be clean-up cycles and the remainder will be routine mowing cycles.

All of the above items were discussed at the Law and Finance Committee Meeting on April 13, 2011.

Upon motion of Council Member Walter McNeil and seconded by Council Member James Williams, the Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

Case for Public Hearing

Public Hearing on Consideration of Redistricting Plan Following 2010 Decennial Census

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that, as was discussed at the previous Law and Finance committee meeting and the subsequent City Council meeting, following the 2010 Decennial Census, the population of the City of Sanford needs to be reapportioned into electoral wards in order to balance the population according to the U. S. Constitution and the rules of the Department of Justice. Information was provided to Council previously, and is included in Council packets beginning on Page 15, regarding the electoral ward boundaries for the City of Sanford. Following the public hearing, Council will need to determine whether they wish to adopt a ward decision tonight, and, if so, to act or vote on an ordinance that is placed at Council stations regarding adopting new electoral wards.

Attorney Patterson directed Council’s attention to the Power Point presentation screen showing the current ward boundaries. There are five electoral wards from which Council members are elected and two at large positions. Attorney Patterson explained that Plan 1 shows the population proposed for all five wards that would have a total population deviation of 5.5 percent, with the boundaries as shown on Agenda Page 17. The goals of redistricting are to keep the incumbents in their current wards; to balance the population with no more than a 10 percent deviation; and to provide, according to Department of Justice rules, two majority-minority population wards. Plan 2 has a reapportioned plan of 4 percent deviation between the wards, and still has Wards 3 and 4 as our majority-minority wards, with the boundaries as shown on Agenda Page 19. Plan 3 has a 4.7 percent population deviation between wards, and still has Wards 3 and 4 as majority-minority wards. The ward boundaries are shown on Agenda Page 21. Plans 1, 2, and 3 all take into account all minorities with regards to the majority. The Civil Rights Act of 1965 is concerned with the minority population, which is the black minority. Plan 4 is the latest

plan proposed and has a 6.2 percent population deviation among the wards and has two majority-minority wards which are again Wards 3 and 4. Plan 4 is the only plan that has the black population as the highest majority population with regards to the total population. The others counted all minorities. Plan boundaries are shown on Agenda Page 23.

Attorney Patterson explained that Council will need to open a public hearing for public comment on the plans. If Council so chooses, they may then adopt a plan and pass an ordinance in order to put in place the electoral wards. That takes an amendment to our charter, and that will require a vote at each of two separate meetings. A vote is needed tonight and on May 3 at the next Council meeting in order to meet the tight timetable to get this presented to the Department of Justice and for them to act on it within the sixty days allowed to have it returned so that people who wish to run for office can file in the appropriate time.

Attorney Patterson explained that all this had been explained by Don Kovasckitz, our Strategic Services Director in the GIS Department. He is responsible for having calculated the numbers from the census blocks in the census data to put the proposals before council tonight. Attorney Patterson stated that Mr. Kovasckitz had to be out of town and she is presenting the information for him tonight.

Mayor Olive opened the public hearing. No individual spoke in favor of or against the project. Mayor Olive closed the public hearing.

Consider Adoption of Electoral Ward Districts – (Exhibit D) and Approval of Ordinance to Establish New Electoral Wards Within the City of Sanford for Election of Members of the City Council – (Exhibit E)

Council Member Sam Gaskins made the motion to approve Plan 4 for Electoral Ward Redistricting and was seconded by Council Member Poly Cohen. Council Member Gaskins expressed concern about questions regarding the accuracy of the census and that new numbers might increase by at least 1,000 people. He asked if we knew this distribution and how it would affect this redistricting. Attorney Patterson stated that, in order to challenge the census numbers as they are out, you would have to go through a long and arduous process. She stated that might not be resolved before the time we would need to redistrict for the upcoming election. Mr. Gaskins stated that this plan was the highest deviation and that is why he was concerned.

Community Development Director, Bob Bridwell, stated that Strategic Services Administrator, Don Kovasckitz, would probably start doing that challenge in June when the opportunity opens. He agreed with Attorney Patterson that, for this effort, we have to go with the numbers we have. Mayor Olive stated that she had asked Mr. Kovasckitz that question, and he had stated those numbers would likely parallel the ones we have now. Attorney Patterson clarified that the motion was to adopt the ward redistricting and to pass the ordinance in regard to establishing the new electoral wards. Council Member Gaskins responded, yes.

The vote to approve the ward redistricting and ordinance establishing the new electoral wards passed by a 5-1 vote, with Council Member Charles Taylor casting the dissenting vote.

Decisions on Public Hearings

There were no decisions on public hearing.

Regular Agenda

Consider Request from Reverend William Earl Gorham with Life Ministries for the Covenant Inc – (Exhibit F)

Pastor Gorham was not present in the audience. Mayor Olive stated that this would be rescheduled when Pastor Gorham could be present.

Consider Revised Settlement with NCDHHS Regarding Medicaid Reimbursements – (Exhibit G)

City Attorney Susan Patterson stated that at a previous meeting, she had presented council with a proposed settlement with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services regarding Medicaid reimbursements. This was where the NCDHHS had looked into things that Medicaid had paid for when people already had private insurance. The City was self-insured during several months of that process. The settlement was with Blue Cross and NCDHHS offered the same terms to the City of Sanford. There were a couple of items Council approved in that proposal, but if she (Attorney Patterson) were able to get better terms, she was allowed to do so. Human Resources Director, Christy Pickens, did help to identify an item that did not fall within the range of the settlement terms. That was removed, so our obligation was reduced to \$15,984 out of the \$100,000-plus claims that were presented. In addition, staff was able to get them to remove the indemnity paragraph. Thus, what this contract does is settle these claims for the time period involved (January 2004-December 2007) upon the payment of that \$15,984 and insures that no other claims for said time period should be presented to us for that and this fully settles the matter. Attorney Patterson stated she is seeking approval and direction that City Manager Hal Hegwer be authorized to sign that settlement agreement.

Council Member Charles Taylor asked how many employees were affected by this. Attorney Patterson responded, "Under ten."

Council Member Walter McNeil made the motion to approve the Revised Settlement with NCDHHS Regarding Medicaid Reimbursements; seconded by Council Member Poly Cohen, the motion passed unanimously.

As a matter of clarification, Mrs. Patterson pointed out that, in the event that Blue Cross asks for some co-pays with regards to this, there may be some obligation on that, but the Human Resources Director did not believe that would cause further outflow from us, but would come from the members.

Consider Interlocal Agreement for Disaster Debris Services – (Exhibit H)

Tim Shaw, General Services Manager, explained that this is an interlocal agreement between Lee County and the City of Sanford for the removal of debris as a result of disasters such as the tornado disaster we have at hand today. Bids were taken; three contractors were interviewed; and a selection was made by a committee of the Town of Broadway, the City of Sanford, and Lee County. Lee County approved this contract yesterday; they are willing for us to enter into an interlocal agreement with them for this company to do our work. We would

regulate or monitor the group that would work inside the city limits. Lee County would have its own representative from the same company. The process of billing would be done by Lee County; we would handle documentation and turn that in and keep records for ourselves. They would take care of the billing through FEMA. The Emergency Management people do not have a problem with this interlocal agreement. It has been sent to Raleigh for FEMA to review and they have no problem with it. They will be sending it to Atlanta tomorrow for their review. We do not foresee a problem with it and recommend entering into it because it will enable us to have a contractor readily available when and if we have another event. The contract is for three years and two one-year extensions beyond that with some review of fuel costs.

Attorney Patterson clarified that the County of Lee contracted with Byrd Brothers at the end of that process. Byrd Brothers would be the contractor for Lee County, but it was understood that it would also allow them to act through the interlocal agreements with the Town of Broadway and the City of Sanford. Mrs. Patterson stated that the statutes allow us to enter into interlocal cooperation with other governmental entities in order to execute any undertaking, so this would be Lee County contracting with Byrd Brothers to do the debris removal following a disaster. The City of Sanford would then contract with Lee County for Lee County to provide those services within the city limits through the contract that they have with Byrd Brothers. The interlocal agreement allows us to have Lee County do the paperwork for reimbursement, submit the information to FEMA, but we are delegated the authority to direct the execution of the scope of services of the contract within the city limits. We also have the ability to terminate this at any time and for any reason. It would obligate the City to reimburse the County for debris removal taken care of inside the City Limits in the event that a disaster is not eligible for FEMA or state reimbursement. It is event-specific in that we will not know until there is a disaster for which this large-scale debris removal is necessary how much the cost that would be. We want it to be contingent upon a disaster declaration having been made and approval by FEMA because it won't be sent to Atlanta until tomorrow for a decision.

Mr. Shaw stated that the contractors who bid on this contract are professionals. They are licensed, have the equipment, and know what to do. Once inside the disaster, they will look at and use local contractors to the extent they can; however, they do come equipped to do the job and get out of here. About six contractors bid and the three low bids were taken for interviews with the City of Sanford, Town of Broadway, and Lee County participating with all interviews. Byrd Brothers was chosen. With the contract, debris removal could begin without delay following a disaster. Mayor Olive confirmed that Lee County had checked out references for the company, which is based out of Wilson, North Carolina.

Council Member Linwood Mann asked how he arrived at a cost factor. Mr. Shaw replied that it is based on cubic yardage that is out by a storm. Larry Craig, Solid Waste Superintendent, stated it is about \$6.79 per cubic yard for vegetative debris and about \$6.49 per cubic yard for construction/demolition debris. There are other charges for removing stumps, etc. Each truck has a capacity; most about 40 cubic yards. When the trucks enter the staging site, an attendant will check that load and verify that it is 40 cubic yards. Mr. Shaw stated that tickets are filled out for every truck, including those for the City. Mr. Craig stated that the rates have to go to FEMA to be approved, and the rates we got are way under what most places are paying. Mr. Mann

asked how the rate was determined. Mr. Craig stated that FEMA has a charge that they know is reasonable/customary—a rate they will be willing to pay.

Mayor Olive asked Mr. Craig, based on past experience elsewhere, how much he thought the City would have to pay in matching. Mr. Craig stated that, based on a ride through yesterday, the FEMA representative is estimating about 12,500 yards of vegetative debris and about 1,000 yards of construction/demolition debris (C&D). There is a pickup cost, a disposal cost, and a grinding cost. By the end, you may be looking at \$12-\$13 a cubic yard. Mr. Shaw stated it depends on the type of declaration we get. If we get a federal declaration of disaster, it would be hoped the reimbursement would be 100 percent. It may only be 75 percent with the state to pick up the other 25 percent. We may be required to do 12.5 percent, but until the declarations are done, we do not have an idea.

City Manger Hal Hegwer stated that it will require tremendous documentation if the Federal Government is going to participate. Attorney Patterson added that this is set up for Lee County to provide all the documentation to FEMA for reimbursement.

Council Member Gaskins commended everyone involved from the City for being so well prepared for something like this disaster, and pointed out that by going through the subcontractors rather than doing the work with City or County personnel, the expenses are clearly delineated, so there won't be any confusion as to what is reimbursed. He stated that he thought an outstanding job has been done and to have this ready to go is fantastic. He thanked staff for all their work.

Mr. Craig stated that this is residential cleanup mostly; they are not cleaning up the commercial areas. Mr. Shaw stated that with computerization, we will know daily what is being picked up and taken to the sites.

Council Member Taylor asked what set the chosen three bidders apart from the other two. Mr. Craig stated that one big deciding factor involves the Stafford Act which was established to encourage use of local contractors and Byrd Brothers is based out of Wilson, North Carolina. However, everything was considered-- from their presentation, to the day they were interviewed to their pricing on several categories. Mr. Shaw reminded Council that it was an effort by all three contracted entities—City of Sanford, Town of Broadway, and Lee County. Council Member Williams questioned how the debris would be tallied separating Sanford from Lee County. Mr. Shaw stated that the drivers could be provided with mapping and staffing for directing and monitoring. Mr. Craig stated there would be a city monitor behind each truck everywhere they go to make sure they are not picking up where they should not be. The contractor's trucks will have identification to show they are working for Sanford.

Council Member Linwood Mann made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Disaster Debris Service; seconded by Council Member Charles Taylor, the motion passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2010-2011 – (Exhibit I)

City Manager Hegwer stated that in 2008, some improvements were proposed in our Building Inspection's Department in terms of software and permitting. We purchased a computer system and software for well over \$100,000 that had four components to it. One was permitting software which was a primary tool by which all permits are created—building, electrical, and mechanical. They could be tracked and stored electronically. This allows contractors to go on the site and monitor the status of those permits. A second part was an Integrated IVR System (voice recognition). This is an automated phone system that allows contractors to call in and schedule inspections at their convenience. It allows us not to have so much staff answering the phone and processing those types of requests. A third component was the Mobile Gov Net which is software designed to allow for field inspectors to record the results of the inspection while in the field and transmit it via wireless internet to the permitting software for real time. That component was not put into place because it was going to require laptop computers to be purchased at the time and would require some recurring expense in terms of maintaining that software, the mobile access, and the wireless access. A fourth component was online permitting which would allow contractors to purchase permits online, such as building, mechanical, and electrical, but more specifically, the plumbing and electrical that did not require an office visit. Many of these could be purchased on line, requiring less staff time. Ultimately, as we purchased all of that, we were only utilizing two components of that—we are not using the online permitting and the laptop component for the computer system.

Mr. Hegwer stated that in view of the tornado situation, it would be prudent to move forward to get the laptop component online so that officers would not have to return to the office with the information. It would provide for some efficiencies, but there is some expense upfront to be shared with Lee County. The budget amendment is for \$21,950. There will be some recurring costs in the future that will be in next year's budget of around \$7,000. Mr. Hegwer stated that he believes, over time, we will not have to hire more permanent inspectors as quickly, but will allow us to provide a little more efficient inspection services because a lot of the damaged homes (city and county) will need to be inspected quickly.

Council Member Walter McNeil made the motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2010-2011; seconded by Council Member Linwood Mann, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hegwer added that we are working on some additional inspectors that could be helpful to us on a temporary basis.

State of the City after the Tornado

Mayor Olive stated that she and City Manager Hegwer would share information they have regarding what the City has done and the information they have regarding the tornado disaster. Some of the information is countywide. Mayor Olive stated that some of the information is already known, but there have been so many false rumors circulated that she wanted to clarify things for the public. There have been agencies hampered in their work due to this false information.

Mayor Olive stated that the tornado that struck on Saturday was considered an EF 3, meaning that the velocity was 160 miles per hour. From the air, it appears that the tornado made an almost straight line across the County, with a 10.5 mile-long and .5 mile-wide affected area. Two people were killed and an estimated 100 people were injured. At the hospital, Doug Doris tells us there were 33 people treated and released; one person was admitted; two were transferred to UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill—one for emergency surgery and one was dead on arrival. Twelve doctors on staff at the hospital came in to help on Saturday. Saturday evening, we declared Sanford to be in a state of emergency and joined the County in establishing a curfew—from 8:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M.

Mr. Hegwer stated that he does not have a confirmed total for the County for the number of buildings destroyed, but in the City of Sanford, approximately 70 homes were damaged. EOC still has teams out assessing the impacted areas. Mayor Olive added that some houses were completely destroyed and some cars in parking lots in the hardest hit areas were demolished. Mr. Hegwer explained that we lost power—provided by Central Electric Membership Corporation-- at the water treatment facility for a period of time, and we did lose a significant amount of water from the leaks, but were able to make that up with our pumping capacity. Power was restored to the plant on Monday. We lost power again and we are taking precautions that in the future if we lose power, we will have something in place to take care of that. Most of those leaks were caused by fire lines and water lines that were disrupted that were attached to many of the buildings and structures that were leaking. Employees worked through the night and all the city-maintained lines are back in operation now. Many service lines are turned off from the residents that were directly affected. The water quality was maintained. We stopped flushing lines temporarily, but that has been resumed. Mr. Hegwer explained that when we meet a certain milestone, we go into automatic conservation matters. We did not reach any of those. We are still assessing the damage to our rights of way. We have hundreds of miles of rights of way of sewer lines, aerial lines across creeks, etc.

Mayor Olive stated the most asked questions are where people can donate things and whom they can call to volunteer to help. The person at the Emergency Operations Center is Michelle Bullard who works with United Way. Her telephone number is 919-777-7744. She is finding out what people care to donate and routes them to the right place. For example, the Salvation Army is taking clothes and will accept some food. Christians United Outreach Center is also doing the bulk of the food distribution. Mr. Hegwer stated that a City employee is working with her to team up the volunteers and route them around the community. Citizens who need help are encouraged to call her. Mayor Olive shared that in the Saint Andrews Church Road area and at Poplar Springs Baptist Church Road and Rice Road, it was amazing the Good Samaritan chain saw operators who turned out in full force and cleared the streets so the utility trucks could get down to where they were needed.

Mr. Hegwer stated that we do not have a dollar-value estimate yet. Community Development Director, Bob Bridwell, stated that the assessment teams have been out since yesterday and by Thursday afternoon, he expects we will have some preliminary numbers. They are looking at each structure to determine the level of damage and downloading the tax information; those percentages will drive those estimates. Mr. Bridwell explained that FEMA's primary purpose here is to feed information back to FEMA to formulate the declaration of

disaster. Mayor Olive stated there were criticisms of their moving too slowly. She clarified that Saturday evening, the governor's office had already made the initial overtures to get FEMA in place. On Sunday morning, the governor, Senator Kay Hagan, and Congresswoman Renee Ellmers were here. They all said they had done what they could to fast-track FEMA's arrival and their operation here. Mr. Bridwell stated that their being here, even in a preliminary fashion, is good.

Mayor Olive stated that there are no longer shelters open; however, the Red Cross has given out, to date, vouchers for 14 night stays in motels they have contracted with. They can give debit cards to people who can verify their addresses who need to buy food and clothing. They do send people who were in the tornado's path to the Salvation Army to get them started. Michelle Bullard stated they prefer people who need clothes go to the Salvation Army and those who have clothes to donate, take them to the Salvation Army; for food, to go to the CUOC. Burke's Outlet is providing some clothing vouchers, too.

Mayor Olive stated that Abby Cameron, the director of the Red Cross, said that she anticipated in ten days to two weeks that there may be a sort of explosion of people who will need lodging because many are staying with friends and neighbors now and will need to move on. The Mayor of Vass, Billy Callahan, reported to Mayor Olive that his town council had held an emergency, called meeting to decide what they wanted to do to help us. They appropriated \$5,000 to send us from their contingency fund, and that was directed to the Red Cross.

To avert people other than tornado victims getting these valuable resources, the Red Cross does a very thorough screening. The city has drawn an anti-price gauging proclamation as a safeguard. This measure is in place at the mayor's discretion. Mr. Hegwer did not have a specific answer about when certain businesses would be back in business. He stated that Static Control has not closed; they are operating in a little different fashion. He believes SpanSet is still operating and the City is working with them. Mr. Bridwell stated that Lowe's is looking for a temporary location and had their architects meet with planning staff regarding the redevelopment of the original site. The same is true for Tractor Supply. Building Inspectors have been out assessing which damaged homes can have the power restored. Mr. Bridwell stated that last night, inspectors were out past 7:30 getting authorization for people to have power back on. They are also marking the buildings that should not have power back on.

Mayor Olive reported that Tractor Supply had insurance privately and through the mall and had a buyer who would purchase their undamaged merchandise. They plan to have their employees continue to work to clean up the area. When that is finished, they have insurance to cover employee salaries, as well. Mayor Olive recalled that when they came to town, they immediately hired all local personnel.

Police Chief, Ronnie Yarborough, stated that traffic was a big issue creating a lot of confusion. They immediately tried to get detours set up around the destroyed sites as quickly as they could. Power lines were down, etc. The roadblocks were set up in the interest of public safety. Chief Yarborough stated that there have been some associated arrests. Last night, five individuals were arrested who were preparing to go into the demolished Lowe's store at 2:00-3:00 in the morning. They had come in from Raleigh. They were in possession of burglary

tools, unlocking devices, radios, etc. They also arrested one individual from Spring Lake who was out in the Rice Road area going on private property gathering up metal, etc. They arrested two individual who were violating the emergency curfew and refused to move on after they were instructed to. Chief Yarborough stated that we had been fortunate because there have been very few larcenies and very few crimes. At the same time, there has been a large staff of officers in the affected areas, working and protecting people's property. Chief Yarborough feels it has been very successful. He stated that there is still a great number of officers working in the area, and will continue to do so to protect the properties that are very vulnerable right now.

Mayor Olive thanked Chief Yarborough and stated that everywhere she had been she had seen police officers. She stated that she met a couple of highway patrolmen who came in from Wake County who said they would be here as long as they were needed. Chief Yarborough stated that the Mobile Precinct was set up Saturday in the Lowe's parking lot. That has been their command center and has been invaluable to them. He stated that the public had been very gracious to all those officers working in and out of that center, bringing in food. City Manager Hegwer added that they were working with the County and the Highway Patrol. Chief Yarborough stated that the first day or two, they had about sixty officers out working as they called in off-duty staff. They maintained a group of off-duty officers and staff the entire time and are doing so now. They are working closely with the County and communicating with the Sheriff daily. He is alerting his staff to the problem with out-of-town individuals coming into these areas. Under the Sheriff's authority, the City has assisted him with officers down 87 South to the county line where he has a lot of people tied up in disaster areas like Saint Andrews. He has been supplied with 20-25 ALE agents to come in and secure some of the homes and traffic.

Mayor Olive stated that yesterday, there was discussion about lifting the curfew for the convenience of some. The decision was to leave it in place until it ends naturally after five full days. Chief Yarborough clarified that would be Thursday night. He stated that the curfew and restrictions are really for the areas that are in the immediate disaster area. There has been some confusion with restaurants, etc. They can open because they are not in the disaster area. Mr. Hegwer stated that we had had some calls, but feels the confusion is mostly cleared up because businesses are open.

Because of our weather forecast, Mayor Olive stated that she had asked our Risk Management Officer, Van Dowdy, if he would find out if there is threatening weather predicted for Friday. Mr. Dowdy stated that he had sent that information to Mr. Hegwer. Mr. Hegwer stated the forecast was for a chance of showers and thunderstorms 7:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. for Wednesday; chance of rain 50 percent, less than a tenth of an inch possible, on Thursday; and another chance of rain on Friday.

Mayor Olive stated that David McNeil of Progress Energy has been on the scene and has provided regular updates on how the power had been restored. Today, there are very few that are still not on, but that is because of their homes are situated in such ways because of the damage that the power can't be turned back on yet. As of this morning, fewer than fifty people were without power. Mayor Olive asked for clarification for what it means to the victims to be declared a disaster area by the President. Mr. Hegwer stated that means there is a good chance the City and County will be reimbursed for approximately 75 percent or more of the cleanup and

restoration of government services. The area is being assessed now to determine the eligibility for that declaration. There may be some assistance for individuals affected.

Mayor Olive extended special thanks to the Emergency personnel, particularly to the Police Department and Fire Department. Assistance came in from Moncure, Silk Hope, Goldston, Harnett County, Moore County, and Chatham County to help. Fire Chief Wayne Barber agreed they had had a lot of help initially. He encouraged anybody who needs assistance to call the number the mayor had given out. Resources are available and they need to know where to put them. He said assistance had come in also from the State and a regional response team from Charlotte has been here for three days and another one came in from Greensboro. Multiple search and rescue teams helped going through the Lowe's building and Static Control buildings for HAZMAT stuff. This help was appreciated because those teams are not available in the county. Mayor Olive stated that there were city employees and off-duty fire and police available and that all the help was gratifying. She added that this morning Kmart had sent a truckload of bottled water to be distributed. Caterpillar had sent in equipment to be used in the affected residential areas. The Bishop of the Episcopal Church of North Carolina was here most of the afternoon representing the Episcopal Relief and Recovery Fund. He also has a discretionary fund that can be used to help residents.

Council Member Taylor stated that it was a seamless operation of different agencies. In the last couple of days, it has been really prominent with the ALE officers at the check point. He complimented city staff, fire and police departments, and planning and inspections. Some of these people were affected personally. Mr. Taylor had a Food Lion representative from Charlotte to call him on Sunday and it is amazing how expeditiously inspections/Chris Riggins worked on getting Food Lion back open; they replaced a third of their roof. The local manager, Troy Marshall, was very pleased with the service he received from the city. He asked that Michelle Bullard's contact information be posted on public access.

Mr. Taylor stated there have been questions about whether construction debris and vegetative debris should be separated. General Services Manager Tim Shaw stated that the vegetative debris does need to be segregated, as do metals or materials to be recycled, and the construction/demolition materials that go to the landfill would be in another pile. It would also be good to have an electronics' pile. Mr. Taylor stated that people who own rental properties in the area are greatly affected by not having revenue from those respective properties. In the future, he would like to have a look at property taxes being paid on rental property that cannot be rented. He asked for providing some relief in permitting for those who are willing to or wishing to rebuild.

Mayor Olive asked Community Development Director Bob Bridwell about courtesies the City can extend in this regard. Mr. Bridwell stated that is under review right now. The majority of these homes were insured and will be covered by insurance. They will find a way to work with anyone who is too encumbered by the fee to be able to rebuild. They will not eliminate the building permit requirement because of safety issues. They also want to be sure the people who are doing the work are qualified to do the work. They will expedite the process to the extent possible, however.

Council Member Williams stated how proud he is of the work City leaders and staff have done. He has received calls from out of state, too. Sam Champion of Good Morning America did his weather forecast from Lowe's. Sanford has been put in the spotlight from the tornado and he thinks the government will use Sanford as an example to look good after what happened with Hurricane Katrina.

Council Member Walter McNeil stated, on the behalf of the citizens of Sanford, a thank you to the State, City, and National emergency workers for their help and mutual aid to the City and to the Baptist Men and other organizations. Mayor Olive stated that Senator Richard Burr is due in Sanford today, but his arrival has been delayed. Mayor Olive personally extended her thanks to the City Manager and City Attorney as they were available night and day to get things done as quickly as possible. All department heads were available when called on.

Mayor Olive announced that Pastor Gorham has arrived who was scheduled to speak to Council earlier. Council observed a five minute break and returned to hear Pastor Gorham.

Mayor Olive directed Council's attention to Regular Agenda, Item A –Consider request from Reverend William Earl Gorham with Life Ministries for the Covenant, Inc.

Pastor Gorham presented a handout to Council members. Reverend Gorham identified himself as Reverend William Earl Gorham of 218 Simmons Street, Sanford, North Carolina. He is speaking on behalf of Life Ministries for the Covenant, Inc., a Sanford based nonprofit, dedicated to helping a number of less fortunate citizens among us to become productive citizens here in the county. The services are provided to members of the community who have been incarcerated in the past or who are about to be released back into society from North Carolina prisons. The objectives are to help them in their rehabilitation process and to overcome any hurdles they have in finding shelter and meaningful work. Their mission is to provide temporary shelter, job skills refresher training, budget assistance, and job placement assistance for former prisoners in the North Carolina penal system. He stated that without help from organizations such as his, as many as 70 percent of felons will return to a life of crime and incarceration. He is requesting the City Council to support their efforts to acquire state level recognition and financial support through grants. To be successful, Reverend Gorham states that Life Ministries needs Council's prayers, moral support, and endorsement of their efforts to help rehabilitate persons emerging from our prisons.

Mayor Olive asked Reverend Gorham if it was still his plan to bring in inmates from other counties. Reverend Gorham responded, "Yes." He stated that he has included Lee, Harnett, Moore, Chatham, and Johnson. None of these counties have a halfway house for a male or female coming out of prison. He felt that Lee County had all the services available that people coming out of that situation would need. Mayor Olive expressed concern about bringing in former inmates from other counties and what they would do once they leave his facility. Reverend Gorham stated that their goal is to help them to position themselves to be productive citizens wherever they live. He stated they had chosen Lee County because it is the county where the most opportunity for jobs exists out of the five counties. He stated that their first priority is public safety. Right now, they are looking at the Koury Building for location. He has

already started some programs, such as a Christian mentoring program. He plans to have the halfway house opened by 2012.

Council Member Taylor thanked Pastor Gorham for his initiative. He expressed concerns about budgeting constraints, liability, licensing, counseling, credentials, etc. Council Member Taylor said that he understood this was personal to Reverend Gorham, but when a governing body puts their name behind something, they want to make sure it is going to maintain the level of integrity that we want to maintain here. He stated he would like to see additional information regarding those particular areas of concern, explaining that if it gets set up and someone goes out and works for a lady and a crime is committed, it would reflect back on the Board. He stated that is a major concern for him. Reverend Gorham responded with the example of two young men he is currently working with who have to be supervised the whole time they are working. He stated he would get more information to Council about the counselors and other workers who will be involved.

Council Member Gaskins asked how Reverend Gorham's project is funded. Reverend Gorham responded that right now they are depending on donations and applying for grants. He has two grant writers. Reverend Gorham did not know to whom the applications were being made.

Mayor Olive advised Reverend Gorham that the Council will take his request under advisement.

Other Business

Council Member Sam Gaskins reiterated the fact that there were not dozens of people killed at the Lowe's building when the tornado went through. He credited Lowe's employees (of which Council Member Linwood Mann is one) for their assistance in getting customers to a safe place. He announced the Grand Opening of the Endor Greenway for April 30 at 1:30 P.M. Tee shirts will be available tied together with a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club. He invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Olive announced the Pottery Festival on April 30th and the San Lee Park Fun Day. She mentioned that a city employee, Gerald Cox, was in the Lowe's store when the tornado was spotted. She said that he reported that a woman, whom the mayor was told to be Gail Dickens, a Lowe's employee, got on the intercom and told everyone to go to the back of the store immediately. From the urgency and tone of her voice, everyone responded accordingly and that was what saved so many lives. Mayor Olive expressed appreciation to her presence of mind and composure. Mayor Olive stated that Lowe's has had attention from all over the country, including radio stations in Boston and Chicago. She also thanked Major Gray, Tim Shaw, Chris Riggins, and City Manager Hegwer.

City Manager Hegwer thanked Council during this crisis for making it easy to work for. He stated that we have staff who have been here many years. He explained that employees can be trained for things that might happen, but, what we need and the way that we work is, you need the expertise and intelligence to make good, competent decisions and that is what we have. That

experience really pays off and he stated he is glad to be part of it; makes his life easy. He is proud to be part of the organization.

ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member James Williams made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Walter McNeil the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNELIA P. OLIVE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JANICE COX, DEPUTY CITY CLERK